

the Chatterbox

Spring 2009



www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

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Mission Statement

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department shall exist to serve the leisure and recreational needs of the residents and tourists of the county. We will strive to be the leader in providing well-maintained, high-quality passive parks and facilities, excellent programs and services, and the preservation of greenspace to enhance the quality of life in the county.

Park Board Meetings

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation park board meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Cool Creek Nature Center Auditorium, located at 2000-1 East 151st Street in Carmel. The meetings are open to the public.

Park Hours

All parks operated by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation are open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Some sections of the park may be closed due to special events or shelter reservations. Please refer to *The Chatterbox* or call the administration office.

The Chatterbox is distributed in March, June, September, and December. If you would like to be on our mailing list or have an address change, please call the Administration Office at 317-770-4400.

Proud member of:



For info on other parks visit:
www.hampa.org www.inpra.org

Director's Dialog

Welcome to the Spring 2009 edition of *the Chatterbox*. It is particularly difficult to think of spring right now, mainly because as I am writing this we are in the midst of our first meaningful snowfall and cold of winter 08/09. However, I will try to think ahead to the challenges and wonders of spring.



This year presents new challenges. These fiscal challenges are not new in their existence but they are very new in their severity. The state of the economy has affected us all in one way or another. In being a governmental entity we are affected in several different ways. Not only have our usual funding sources (property taxes) been affected but also our secondary sources, grants. Most of these grants come from state and federal programs. As these programs are cut, which is largely the case, the available funding is cut. We will continue to attempt to secure grants so that we can continue to attempt to keep pace with the demands of our growing community. Some may question even spending this money during such difficult times, however I look at it this way. Grant money is available and will be distributed to some organization or some community, so why not us and our community. The one thing we do have and we can use is our existing resources, our land and our staff.

This spring, as is always the case, the staff will be working hard to maximize our ability to serve the public. Every spring our parks are host to some of nature's most beautiful displays as the parks awaken and blossom before our eyes. We are again offering our usual array of nature programming as well as trying to visit some new locations. We are also trying some new and different topics such as: maple syrup processing and orienteering. Check out all of our program offerings in this edition of *the Chatterbox*.

You are NEVER too busy to stop and smell the flowers.

See you in the parks!

Sincerely,

Allen W. Patterson

Park News

Playground Gets New Surface

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department has received a \$30,000 Waste Tire Diversion grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

The proposed project will replace an existing playground surface at White River Campground with a pour-in-place surface that will consist of using 100% Indiana recycled tires. Currently, the playground surface in place (wood-chips) washes away when there is flooding from the White River, a pour-in-place surface will alleviate this problem, and be more environmentally friendly.

New Addition to Park Staff

The Parks Department would like to introduce the newest member of our park staff, Chatterbox! He made a brief appearance at Holiday Happenings this past December and was loved by all!

Be on the lookout for Chatterbox at future programs and events. He is extremely outgoing and friendly, so please come up and welcome him to the park family!



FUNdraiser for Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with Max & Erma's in Carmel on March 16th for a FUNdraiser. The fundraiser will take place all day long, with 20% of the total proceeds benefitting the Parks Department. To participate patrons MUST have a flyer to have their sale counted in the total. To receive a flyer simply visit, visit the news section and print the pdf version of the flyer. The Parks Department will also be distributing this flyer via it's E-Chatter online newsletter.

2009 U.S. Senior Open Championship

Plan your summer activities early! Don't miss your chance to see Greg Norman, Hale Irwin, Bernhard Langer, Indiana's own Fuzzy Zoeller and more of the greatest golfers to play the game compete right here in our backyard July 27 - August 2 at Crooked Stick Golf Club! Kids 17 and under get in free with a ticketed adult. Our own Coxhall Gardens will play an integral role in the operations of the Championship. More details on our multiple ventures will be announced at a later date. For information on tickets and volunteer opportunities go to www.2009ussenioropen.com



Park Programs

SPRING EXHIBIT: *Spring on a Wing*

Birds are all around us, yet few people realize the large diversity found in Indiana or know about the astonishing habits of these amazing feathered dynamos! For example, over 100 species of birds can easily be observed in our area through the months of April and May and Downy Woodpeckers and other small birds will "mob" much larger birds, like hawks if they feel threatened. Put a spring in your step as you migrate to the Cool Creek Nature Center to learn more about these creatures. Information about specific birds, like woodpeckers, will be featured, as well as general bird-related facts about conservation, nesting, and habitats. Free daily crafts, our popular treasure chest, and scavenger hunts will also be available to all those that flock to this interactive exhibit. While you're here, be sure to check out our Wildlife Viewing Area or take a hike to get a look at live, wild birds along the trails of Cool Creek Park. Please call the Nature Center at 317-848-0576 with additional questions.

Dates: March 23-June 7
Nature Center Closed on: April 10, 12; May 25
Hours: Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Pre-registration: No

Strawtown Enclosure- Native American Village Tours

Our interpretive staff will be conducting tours of the Strawtown Enclosure for interested guests of the park. During these tours we will discuss the details known thus far regarding the Native Americans who built and used the enclosure and village over 700 years ago. The tours will begin inside the Taylor Center of Natural History and include a short stroll to the village site. For more information, please contact us at 317-984-5556.

Dates: Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.; Sundays at 2:00 p.m.
Ages: All
Pre-registration: No

Note: A tour will not be offered when the building is closed April 12.

Maple Syrup Program at Bray Park

Get "sappy" with Hamilton County Parks. The staff will be demonstrating the tapping process on some of the same trees that the Bray Family tapped over the last 150 years. Traditional and modern equipment used in the process will be featured as well as information about the folklore, history, and facts about Maple trees.

Date: Saturday, March 7
Time: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Location: Bray Family Homestead Park
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-848-0576 or email: ccnc@co.hamilton.in.us



Puppets Are Popping Up At Cool Creek Park


Come laugh and learn with Miss Diane Breier and her puppet pals this spring. Audience members will enjoy the fun nature-themed stories she has in store!

Dates: Thursday, March 12
Tuesday, March 24
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: Best for ages 2-6
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center, Cool Creek Park
Pre-registration: No

Pajama-Rama

Put on your cutest pair of pajamas, grab your favorite teddy bear, pack up an old blanket, and join us at the Cool Creek Nature Center for Pajama-Rama! Families looking for a fun program to enjoy with toddlers and preschoolers will love the music educator from Moriah Music who will lead us in songs and stories about some of our favorite animals.

Dates: March 13, April 3, and May 1
(Note: March program is on the second Friday.)
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for families with children ages 1-7
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center, Cool Creek Park
Pre-registration: Yes, call 317-848-0576 or email at ccnc@co.hamilton.in.us

Save money this spring break and hang out with Hamilton County Parks!
Look for the  for programs scheduled over Spring Break!

Bones Talk!

Come explore our growing collection of animal bones and learn what bones can tell us. Discover how archaeologists study bones to find clues about how ancient people lived. In this hands-on program you will handle and identify specimens while learning where to find out more information about bones!

Date: Saturday, March 28

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Ages: Best for school aged children

Cost: Free

Location: Taylor Center, Strawtown Koteewi Park

Pre-registration: No

Bird Banding Demonstration

Join Dr. Ron Weiss, Executive Director of the Chipper Woods Bird Observatory, for a fascinating journey into the world of wild birds. See wild birds up close, and learn techniques that field scientists use to safely capture, handle and release wild birds, as well as how to examine them to determine their age, sex, health, molt, and feather condition. These techniques are employed by scientists every day around the world to study the lives, ecology and movements of wild birds to generate data useful for conservation of wild birds and their habitats. All birds will be safely captured, banded, and released unharmed.

Dates: Saturday, March 21

Saturday, April 25.

Saturday, May 23

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: Cool Creek Nature Center, Cool Creek Park

Pre-registration: No

Star and Satellite Gazing Tours

Join Dr. Ronald Weiss, adjunct professor of Astronomy and Earth Science for Vincennes University, for a fascinating evening of star and satellite watching. Amateur astronomer Dan Malone, of Wabash Valley Astronomical Society, will be assisting Dr. Weiss as the group learns about and attempts to view the stars, planets, constellations, satellites, and deep sky objects that are visible each month. In the event that the sky is cloudy, an indoor astronomy program is planned. You are welcome to bring your own telescope or binoculars, but we ask that pets are left at home. This program will meet near the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Dates: Saturday, March 21 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 25, at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 23, at 9:00 p.m.

Ages: Best for families with school aged children and adults

Cost: Free

Location: Strawtown Koteewi Park

Pre-registration: No

Collection Identification

Do you have some arrowheads, stone tools, or other Native American artifacts about which you would like to know more? Archaeologist Jim Mohow will be at the Taylor Center of Natural History at Strawtown Koteewi Park to help artifact collectors identify personal collection pieces. When possible, Mr. Mohow will give you the dates and stories associated with these fascinating relics of the past and the people who used them. For more information, please call the Taylor Center of Natural History at 317-984-5556.

Date: Saturday, May 16

Time: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Taylor Center, Strawtown Koteewi Park

Archaeology Presentation



Join Mike Linderman, Director of Angel Mounds State Historic Site, for a presentation on the birth of archaeology in Indiana. We will learn about the fascinating archaeology that has taken place at Angel Mounds. You are going to dig this talk!

Date: Saturday, April 4

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Ages: Older Children and Adults

Cost: Free

Pre-registration: No

Location: Taylor Center of Natural History, Strawtown Koteewi Park

Histories Mysteries



Have you ever wanted to be a detective? Historians and Archaeologists solve mysteries about the past like detectives. Come join us and help solve a mystery!

Date: Monday, April 6

Time: 11:00 a.m. (for 7-9 years old)

Time: 1:00 p.m. (for 10 years and older)

Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-984-5556 or email tcnh@co.hamilton.in.us

Location: Taylor Center of Natural History, Strawtown Koteewi Park

Turtles and Other Friends



Everyone loves turtles, especially the TURTLE LADY! Nancy Lockard, aka The Turtle Lady, is coming in from Ohio to share her turtles and their stories with us! The only thing she likes better than turtles and children is sharing her turtles with children!

Date: Friday, April 3

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Ages: Best for school aged children

Cost: Free

Pre-registration: No

Location: Cool Creek Nature Center, Cool Creek Park

Spring Tea Party



Bring your favorite young lady or gentleman out to Strawtown Koteewi Park for a garden tea party! Find out why we think there may have been a tea party here in the past. We will also enjoy a small stroll around the prairie to look at and identify some of our beautiful prairie plants. Tea party attire is encouraged and favorite dolls or teddy bears are welcome.

Date: Tuesday, April 7

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Ages: 5-10 years old

Cost: Free

Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-984-5556 or email: tcnh@co.hamilton.in.us

Location: Taylor Center of Natural History, Strawtown Koteewi Park

Snake Rattle and Roll



Slimy and scary are typical words used to describe snakes, but don't believe everything you hear! Mark Booth, Director of Take Flight Wildlife Education, will be bringing some snakes and educating guests about these remarkable creatures.

Date: Monday, April 6

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Ages: Best for school aged children

Cost: Free

Location: Cool Creek Nature Center, Cool Creek Park

Pre-registration: No

Animals of Nature Center Meet and Greet



Anyone that visits the Nature Center and enjoys seeing the educational animals will love this program! Our Naturalists will give the crowd an opportunity to see several of our animals up close. They will also share interesting facts about them, including the stories about how they came to live at the Nature Center.

Date: Wednesday, April 8

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Ages: Best for school aged children

Cost: Free

Location: Cool Creek Nature Center, Cool Creek Park

Pre-registration: No

Creepy Critters



Snakes, tarantulas, and scorpions can give anyone that creepy crawly feeling. Snakehead Ed isn't afraid of them. Ed will be bringing lots of snakes to show the audience. He will also dispel many of the myths people have about these fascinating creatures.

Date: Thursday, April 9

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Ages: Best for school aged children

Cost: Free

Location: Cool Creek Nature Center, Cool Creek Park

Pre-registration: No

Orienteering 101



Point your compass toward Strawtown Koteewi Park for hands-on fun as we learn to use a map and compass, understand topography, and tackle a compass-led orienteering course. This fun and educational program is great for boy scouts working on the orienteering merit badge, as well as anyone interested hiking and navigation.



Date: Thursday, April 9

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Ages: 8 years old up

Pre-registration: Is encouraged but not required; tcnh@co.hamilton.in.us

Location: Taylor Center of Natural History, Strawtown Koteewi Park

Family Frog Night at Coxhall Gardens

Do you fancy frogs? Join a Naturalist at Coxhall Gardens' wetland to participate in a family frog night. We will learn about the different frogs found in this area and learn to identify them by their calls. We might even see some of our elusive froggy friends! Bring a flashlight and meet at the entrance to the Children's Garden. Nets and buckets will be provided, or feel free to bring your own gear! This program fills up quickly, so please pre-register and reserve your spot.



Dates: Friday, April 17

Friday, May 29

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Ages: All

Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-848-0576

Pre-registration for April 17 program begins March 1

Pre-registration for May 29 program begins May 1

Location: Coxhall Gardens

Help-a-Park-Out Day

Scouts, families, gardening organizations or anyone who likes to work outside is invited to Cool Creek Park to help our staff remove the invasive Garlic Mustard plant, pick-up trash, remove trash from the creek, and participate in other projects which help beautify our park. Volunteering can include as little or as much time as each person would like. Volunteer check-in and refreshments are located inside the Nature Center

Date: Saturday, May 2

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Ages: All

Location: Cool Creek Park

Pre-registration: No

Camp Registration Day

Date: Saturday, March 28
Time: Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center
2000-1 E. 151st St., Carmel, IN 46033

The Cool Creek Nature Staff is gearing up for another exciting camp season! In keeping with increased demand and changing demographics regarding our summer programs, we have made additional changes to the registration process. Only registration for our paid, Day Camps will take place on March 28. Registration opportunities for our free, Nature Programs will be made available in June and will be accepted by telephone, walk-ins, or e-mail.

To register your child for a Day Camp, a registration form, waiver, and photo release must be completed by the day of registration. These forms will be taken no earlier than Saturday, March 28, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and must be completed by the parent/legal guardian of the child. Payment must be received on the day of registration. Registration forms will be made available for pick up at the Cool Creek Nature Center beginning Monday, March 9. Patrons may also visit our website at www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com, beginning March 9, to download the registration packet which consists of multiple pages.

Our staff has attempted to make the registration process as simple and as fast for our patrons as possible. However, due to the demand for these programs, we suggest parents anticipate a wait. HCPR staff may issue tickets to each person in line when the line length and/or weather deems necessary. Ticket release time is undetermined until registration morning.



Note: HCP&R will allow relatives or family friends to register children as long as the parent/legal guardian of that child has completed the registration form. A strict limit of four additional children per registering family will be applied.

Parents can only sign their child up for one session of the age appropriate camp and are only permitted to attend the camp for their designated age group.

A limited number of spaces are available, and registration for each camp and session is on a first-come, first serve basis.

Contact the Cool Creek Nature Center at 317-848-0576 with any questions.

Day Camps

Looking for a fun and energetic camp for your children to attend this summer? The Cool Creek Nature Center is offering another summer camp series this year. Registration begins March 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Children must be the appropriate age of the desired camp by August 1, 2009. Please refer to the Camp Registration details listed in this publication or call the Cool Creek Nature Center with questions at 317-848-0576.

Explorer Safari Session 1

Ages: 6-7
Dates: June 15-19
Time: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Fee: \$60

Explorer Safari Session 2

Ages: 6-7
Dates: June 15-19
Time: 1:00-3:30 p.m.
Fee: \$60

Ranger Adventure Session 1

Ages: 8-10
Dates: June 22-26
Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Fee: \$70

Junior Outdoor Skills Session 1

Ages: 11-13
Dates: July 6-10
Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Monday-Wednesday)
(Thursday 10:00 a.m.-all night / Friday pickup at 10:00 a.m.)
Fee: \$80

Ranger Adventure Session 2

Ages: 8-10
Dates: July 13-17
Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Fee: \$70

Junior Outdoor Skills Session 2

Ages: 11-13
Dates: July 20-24
Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Monday-Wednesday)
(Thursday 10:00 a.m.-all night / Friday pickup at 10:00 a.m.)
Fee: \$80

Ranger Adventure Session 3

Ages: 8-10
Dates: July 27-31
Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Fee: \$70

Junior Outdoor Skills Session 3

Ages: 11-13
Dates: August 3-7
Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Monday-Wednesday)
(Thursday 10:00 a.m.-all night / Friday pickup at 10:00 a.m.)
Fee: \$80



White River Campground

Operating Dates:

April 15- October 31

Location:

11299 East 234th Street
Cicero, IN

Amenities:

100 modern campsites
7 primitive campsites
water, electric & sewer hook-ups
camp store, includes bait and tackle
recreation room
restrooms
shower facility
laundry facility
playground
picnic shelter
White River access

**Reservations are now being accepted
for the 2009 and 2010 camping
season. Please call 317-984-2705 for
your reservation.**

Family Fun Nights

Join us at White River Campground for family fun nights! One night a month, we will entertain you and your family. Various entertainers will be there throughout the season to make your stay more enjoyable. For more information, please call the campground at 317-984-2705.

Dates: April 25

Tree Giveaway

Help the earth by planting a tree! All campers will receive a seedling upon arrival. You can also get a chance to meet the department's newest member, Chatterbox!

June 13

Kids Fest

We'll keep the kids entertained with an art and craft, and the bounce house. *Open Season* will also be shown on the big screen in the front lawn.

July 4

Live Music

Head over to the main picnic shelter for some live music.

July 18

Christmas in July

Unpack your holiday decorations and deck out your campsite for this out of ordinary weekend! We'll offer "sleigh" rides, a Christmas movie, and a possible appearance from Santa!

August 1

Kids Fest

Mik the Music Man will entertain the little ones for this fun night! A craft will also be available, as well as the bounce house.

September 5

Outdoor Movie

Pack up the lawn chairs and head to the front lawn for an outdoor movie!

October 17

Halloween

Trick or Treating, campsite decoration contest, and hayrides will be taking over the campground.

October 24

Year End Celebration

CAMP SITE / FACILITY	DAILY		WEEKLY	
	Hamilton County	Out of County	Hamilton County	Out of County
Full Hook-up	\$18	\$20	\$108	\$120
Electric and Water	\$17	\$19	\$102	\$114
Primitive Site	\$14	\$15	\$84	\$90
Day Visitor	\$1	\$2	N/A	N/A
Recreation Room Rental	\$60	\$70	N/A	N/A
Shelter House Rental	\$60	\$70	N/A	N/A
Boat Launch	\$3	\$5	N/A	N/A
Dump Station	\$5	\$6	N/A	N/A

Rental Facilities



Osprey Pointe Pavilion

Planning a shower, wedding reception, or any other special event? Our indoor rental facility at Morse Park and Beach is looking good and waiting for you to rent! Osprey Pointe is located on the bank of Morse Reservoir with a beautiful view of the water and sunset. The facility's seating capacity is 101 people and has a kitchenette and restrooms.

Facility Rental Rate:	\$160.50 for 4 hours
Non-resident Rate:	\$240.75 for 4 hours
Additional Hours:	\$42.80 per hour
Damage Deposit:	\$100
Alcohol Deposit:	\$400

Rental Rates include an on-site security guard and use of all tables and chairs.

Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion

Looking for a beautiful and serene location to hold your upcoming wedding and reception? The Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece is now ready to rent for weddings, wedding receptions, and any other special event you may have on your calendar. Rental is available from April through October.

Three hour Centerpiece rental: \$1,800
Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion rental: \$2,500
Cripe Pavilion rental only: \$2,250

For more information and to rent this facility, please call Ritz Charles at 317-846-9158.



Cripe Pavilion, Coxhall Gardens

Park Shelters

Looking for a place to have a picnic and enjoy the warm weather? Our affordable picnic shelters are a perfect way to have a get-together! Shelter rental is available from May 1 until September 30.

- Shelter rentals are for all-day use.
- No refunds.
- We accept cash, check, money order, VISA or Mastercard.

To rent a shelter, please call 317-770-4400

Cool Creek Park	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelter A,B,C,D	20' x 30'	\$50 + tax	\$80 + tax

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters hold approximately 50 people.

Morse Park and Beach	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelter A,C,D	20' x 30'	\$50 + tax	\$80 + tax
Shelter B	30' x 40'	\$100 + tax	\$140 + tax

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters A, C, and D hold approximately 50 people.
- Shelter B holds approximately 100 people.



Nature Hikes

Beginning Bird Hikes

Birds are fascinating and watching them can be an awe-inspiring experience. Catching a glimpse of these gorgeous creatures however can be frustrating, and learning how to identify all of them can be overwhelming! Join our Naturalist staff and other guest leaders (when available) Sunday and Wednesday mornings and we will all learn together. This is a great opportunity for bird-watchers of all levels. You may begin anytime during the season and come as often as you like. Pre-registration is not required. Don't forget your binoculars!

Cool Creek Park: These hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park; past the Nature Center.

Dates: March 8, 11, 18, 22, 25; April 5, 8, 15, 19, 22, 29; May 3, 13, 17, 20, 27, 31

Days: Wednesday and every other Sunday (with the exception of the first Wednesday of each month)

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Strawtown Koteewi Park: These hikes will meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Dates: March 4; April 1; May 6

Time: 8:30 a.m.

American Woodcock Walk at Strawtown Koteewi Park

Unusual, weird, romantic, and unique are all words used to describe the American Woodcock. Come experience this bird for yourself at Strawtown Koteewi Park as male Woodcocks perform their aerial courtship displays for the females



in the prairie at dusk! The Naturalist led group will likely explore other twilight and nocturnal happenings in the park as well. This program will begin in the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Date: Saturday, March 14

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: Taylor Center of Natural History, Strawtown Koteewi Park

Wildlife Sampling Program & Hike

If you've ever wanted to learn about and salamanders, frogs, snakes, and evidence of wildlife in Hamilton County this program is for you! We will be learning about the different methods and techniques biology researchers use to sample wildlife and we will take a hike after the program.

Date: Saturday, March 21

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Age: 7 yrs and older

Cost: Free

Location: Cool Creek Nature Center

Pre-registration: Yes, please call 317-848-0576 or email at ccnc@co.hamilton.in.us

Geocaching Hike

"Cache" in on this hike! Join a Naturalist at Cool Creek Park for a "treasure hunt!" Geocaching is becoming a popular family pastime and is a great excuse to get outside! Come learn how fun geocaching can be and help us hunt down some hidden treasures in Cool Creek Park! If you already own a GPS (Global Positioning System), please bring it. If not, we can share! Please pre-register by calling: 317-848-0576. **Spots are limited to prevent off-trail damage, so sign up today!** Please remember to dress "ready to hike".

Date: Saturday, April 11

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Ages: Best for ages 8 and up

Cost: Free

Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-848-0576 or email: ccnc@co.hamilton.in.us

Location: Cool Creek Park

Tike Hike-Bird Hike

Join a Hamilton County Park Naturalist and members of the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society as we ignite children's interest in bird watching. A short, indoor program, outdoor bird hike, and craft will be included in this program. We will meet in the Cool Creek Nature Center.

Date: Tuesday, April 7

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: Cool Creek Nature Center, Cool Creek Park

Pre-registration: No

Spring Wildflower Hikes

Walk the trails with a Naturalist in search of beautiful spring wildflowers at Cool Creek Park. You won't want to miss the opportunity to see these flowers as they make their brief, but enchanting, appearance in our forests this spring. A Naturalist will discuss a variety of topics during the hike including medicinal and edible attributes of the flowers as well as folklore associated with them.

Dates: Saturday, April 18
Saturday, May 16
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center, Cool Creek Park
Pre-registration: No

Spring Migration Bird Hikes

Dust off your binoculars and catch a peek of some beautiful birds as they make their annual trip north this spring. The hikes are led by well-known birder, Keith Starling. Hurry, some birds will not stay around long! After your hike, stop by the Nature Center's wildlife viewing room for coffee and doughnuts. Spring migration bird hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park.

Dates: Saturday, April 25
Saturday, May 2, 16, 23, 30
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Location: Cool Creek Park
Pre-registration: No

Arbor Day Tree Hike at Bray Family Homestead Park

Celebrate Arbor Day with our Naturalist staff when we visit the Bray Family Homestead Park. This park is not yet open to the public on a regular basis, however, our Naturalist staff loves to check out the preserved woodlot and observe the tree leaves and delicate flowers. This hike will meet where the barns are located, just as you enter the property off of

SR38. For more information about this park, directions, or questions, please call 317-848-0576.

Date: Saturday, April 25
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: Bray Family Homestead Park
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-848-0576 or email: ccnc@co.hamilton.in.us

Audubon May Bird Count

Volunteer to help the HCP&R and the Indiana Audubon Society as we count birds throughout our county. This annual count takes place on International Migratory Bird Day and the results are a valuable tool in tracking bird populations throughout the United States. Bird watchers of different skill levels will be paired together and assigned to various areas of the county. After the morning festivities, an optional lunch will be provided.

Date: Saturday, May 9
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Fee: \$1.00/participant
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center and County-wide
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-848-0576 or email: ccnc@co.hamilton.in.us or 317-844-1686

Prairie Pups Dog Walk

Grab your leash and your furry, best friend for a hike! During the hike, dog owners will see common prairie wildflowers found at the park and learn about historic uses of the prairies. After the walk the group is invited into the lab and make doggie bandanas. Dogless, but dog-friendly, visitors are also welcome to join. This hike will meet in front of the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Date: Saturday, May 30
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Location: Strawtown Koteewi Park
Pre-registration: Is encouraged but not required; tcnh@co.hamilton.in.us

Be a Parks Partner!

Whether it's for a school project, a service organization, or a pastime, volunteering for the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department can be a fun and rewarding experience!

Volunteer opportunities include general park up-keep, assisting with the many opportunities at the department's special events, help with gardening, caring for the Nature Center's wildlife friends, greenhouse work, gardening, landscaping, cleaning, socializing, and education.

To volunteer, please contact Kurtis Baumgartner at 317-770-4404 or visit our website at www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com





Educational Opportunities

School Field Trips with Hamilton County Parks

Put the fun back into your school's field trips by visiting one of Hamilton County's Parks! Our naturalist staff knows kids love being outside as they learn through discovering, and teachers love an organized, safe, and educational experience for their students. We've provided the equipment and enthusiasm needed for a hands-on field trip to area schools for over ten years. With a variety of parks and themes to choose from, you are bound to find a program that fits your needs. We are glad to tailor parts of your visit to fit your grade's curriculum. Our field trips are geared toward students of all ages and group sizes.

Call us today to schedule an exciting nature trip to Cool Creek Nature Center at Cool Creek Park or an awesome archaeology-themed outing at either the Taylor Center of Natural History at Strawtown Koteewi Park or River Road Park. Don't wait! Spots fill up fast!

Cost: Free/Hamilton County students
\$1 per child/Out of county students
Donations are accepted

Pre-registration required by calling Amanda Smith, Superintendent of NR and Education, at 317-848-0576.



The Taylor Center of Natural History is open daily! Visitors are invited to discover the colorful local history stretching thousands of years into the past. Artifacts recovered by professional archaeologists in previous excavations are on display in our exhibit room. Over five miles of trails are open, so don't forget your hiking shoes and sense of adventure! Group tours or presentations can also be arranged by calling 317-984-5556 or 317-714-7144.

Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Note: Closed on April 10, 12; May 25

Adult/Senior/Other Programs at Cool Creek Park

Gardening clubs, senior citizen organizations, high school science or nature clubs, and other adult groups can now consider the Cool Creek Nature Center for their next outing. Our Naturalist staff is available to conduct themed hikes, lectures and presentations on many nature-related topics. Naturalists may also be scheduled for outreach programming if needed.

Cost: Free/Donations are accepted
Pre-registration required by calling a Naturalist at 317-848-0576.

Scout Groups at Cool Creek Park

Are you looking for a great activity for your scouts this year? Come to Cool Creek Park and experience a hike or an animal talk with a Naturalist. Your group can also participate in a craft. Whether you are working towards a badge or just looking for a fun scout activity, Cool Creek Park is a great place for your troop. Dates fill up fast, so don't wait!

Cost: Free/Hamilton County students
\$1 per child/Out of county students
Donations are accepted
Pre-registration required by calling Dan Popiela, Naturalist at 317-848-0576.



At-a-Glance: A Spring Full of Fun



March

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Beginning Bird Hike @ SKP			Maple Syrup Program
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour			Beginning Bird Hike	Puppet Show	Pajama Rama	Woodcock Walk Enclosure Tour
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Enclosure Tour			Beginning Bird Hike		Bones Talk	Wildlife Sampling Bird Banding Demo Star/Satellite Tour Enclosure Tour
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	Spring Exhibit Begins	Puppet Show	Beginning Bird Hike			Camp Registration Day Enclosure Tour
29	30	31				
Enclosure Tour						

April

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	Snake Rattle and Roll Histories Mysteries	Spring Tea Party Tike Hike	Animal Meet n Greet Beginning Bird Hike	Creepy Critters Orienteering 101	Pajama Rama Turtle Program	Angel Mounds Program
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Facilities Closed			Beginning Bird Hike		Family Frog Night	Spring Wildflower Hike Enclosure Tour
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour			Beginning Bird Hike			Arbor Day Hike Bird Banding Demo Star/Satellite Tour Enclosure Tour
26	27	28	29	30		
Enclosure Tour			Beginning Bird Hike			

May

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour			Beginning Bird Hike @ SKP		Pajama Rama	Migratory Bird Hike Help a Park Out Day Enclosure Tour
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Enclosure Tour			Beginning Bird Hike			Migratory Bird Hike May Bird Count Enclosure Tour
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour			Beginning Bird Hike			Bird Banding Demo Star/Satellite Tour Enclosure Tour
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
/	31		Beginning Bird Hike		Family Frog Night	Migratory Bird Hike Prairie Pups Walk Enclosure Tour

1. Administration Office

15513 South Union Street,
Carmel, 46033
317-770-4400

For more information about special events, programs, picnic shelter rentals, and fees or to receive a *Chatterbox* newsletter, call us at 317-770-4400.



2. Bray Family Homestead Park

4528 State Road 38, Noblesville

This new 92-acre park was acquired in 2007 from the Bray Family and is still under development. The development of the park will be limited to trails, overlooks, wildlife feeding areas, and new plantings. Please call 317-770-4400 for more information and up-to-date details on the progress



3. Cool Creek Park

2000 E.151st Street, Carmel, 46033
317-848-0576, CCNC
ccnc@co.hamilton.in.us

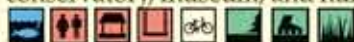
This 90-acre park offers a nature-orientated setting for all seasons. Wooded trails span 3-4 miles of beauty and wildlife. There is a playground area and shelter nearby that can be used while children are at play. Four additional shelters are available for picnicking and rentals. This park also provides a home to the Cool Creek Nature Center and the Cool Concert Series.



4. Coxhall Gardens

116th and Towne Road, Carmel, 46032

This 125-acre park is one-of-a-kind to the residents, tourists, and visitors of Hamilton County. It includes a children's garden, twin bell towers, centerpiece, lake, and plenty of open space. Future plans include a conservatory, museum, and numerous speciality gardens.



5. Geist Park

10979 Florida Rd., Fall Creek Township

This 17-acre park is nestled along the banks of Fall Creek as it enters Geist Reservoir. It is the perfect spot for wildlife viewing and water recreation, including fishing and canoeing. It is also equipped with a play area, picnic shelter, and restrooms.



6. Lafayette Trace Park

Strawtown Avenue East, White River Township

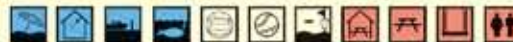
More than 100-acres of land along the White River Greenway in White River Township is currently under development. Current amenities include a canoe launch and parking lot. Please call 317-770-4400 for more information and up-to-date details on the progress of the park .



7. Morse Park and Beach

1977 Morse Park Lane,
Noblesville, 46060
317-776-9743, Morse Beach

Swim, sunbathe, picnic, fish, and play volleyball at Morse Park and Beach. This 23-acre park is also the home of the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department's spring and fall adult softball leagues.



8. Potter's Bridge Park

19401 North Allisonville Road,
Noblesville, 46060

Potter's Covered Bridge, constructed by Josiah Durfee between 1870-71, is the centerpiece of this park. The only remaining covered bridge in Hamilton County, Potter's Bridge was restored in 1999 and surrounded by a 30-acre park. The park also includes a trail that connects to the White River Greenway Trail which runs along the White River.



9. River Road Park

12575 River Road, Carmel, 46033

A two-mile trail, river overlooks, softball and soccer fields, and open space are situated along the banks of the White River at the 63 acre park. An archaeological playground, sandbox, and interpretive building are unique attractions designed to educate about native american life.



10. Strawtown Koteewi Park

12308 Strawtown Avenue,
Noblesville, 46060
317-984-5556, Taylor Center
tcnh@co.hamilton.in.us

This 750-acre property, which borders 3.25 miles along the White River, is currently under development. Current amenities include the Taylor Center of Natural History, over 5 miles of multi-use trails, and a canoe launch. Please call 317-770-4400 for information and up-to-date details on the progress of the park.



11. White River Campground

11299 East 234th Street, Cicero
317-984-2705
Open April 15 - October 31
wrc@co.hamilton.in.us

White River Campground offers the perfect spot to spend a getaway weekend in Hamilton County. The campground has 106 modern and primitive campsites along the White River with quiet spots for fishing and canoeing. A 55x35 feet picnic shelter is available for rental to large groups. Laundry facilities, showers, restrooms, campstore, recreation room, and playground make camping at White River Campground a pleasant experience.



The Parks Department

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hazardous waste.

Please join us in helping our earth!





Spring Softball

New Season, New and Improved Fields

The Morse Park Softball Fields have had a makeover since last season. The north and south fields have had both outfield fences repaired and reinforced. Each outfield was aerated and over seeded for lush growth in the spring. Both infields were regraded and the grassline was repaired to remove the uneven surface. Nineteen tons of Mule infield mix was added to the south field to improve playability. The mix is designed to absorb moisture and control dust during dry conditions.

Spring Registration Information

Be a part of Hamilton County Park's Departments softball program. Spring league will begin on April 27. Both co-ed and men's divisions will be available. Games are played Monday through Friday. Registration forms will be available at the administration office and online beginning March 2. The cost is \$370 per team.

The registration deadline for teams who participated in the 2008 season is March 20.

The registration deadline for new teams is April 10.

Questions? Call 317-770-4409



Hamilton County Parks and Recreation
15513 South Union Street
Carmel, Indiana 46033

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